

Second Sunday of Lent

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

Matthew 6:12

Understanding God’s seamless love for us from before time was created through eternity is unfathomable. Agape embodies all of God’s perfect love including His reactions to creation’s endless dynamic. Within this realm is His promise of total forgiveness for all of our sins simply by a sincere, repentant request.

Unreconciled transgressions (read: “debts” or “trespasses”) are the closed door to all interpersonal relationships. In order to establish a loving, personal relationship with each of us, God, in the person of Jesus Christ, has given Himself as the perfect example of love and forgiveness. His plan of forgiveness and salvation goes like this: 1) The transgressed pays the debtor’s debts; 2) He offers the debtor complete forgiveness; 3) Being confronted with the offer the debtor may repentantly accept; 4) The transgressed gives the debtor absolute assurance of pardon and 5) The former debtor accepts and “owns” the assurance. Reconciliation!

Many Christians have trouble owning God’s complete forgiveness because of their limited knowledge of Agape-type love. Our arrogance convinces us we know our forgiveness is limited so God’s must be also. Not true. Our Manufacturer, God, knows us best and promises if we will seek, we will find truth and limitless power of love with total forgiveness. Our growth in Agape and its exhibition through reconciled relationships is what life is all about.

Father, Thank You for forgiving my debts, not as I have forgiven my debtors, but as You would have me forgive them. Help me to part with my ‘elephant-like’ memory of others’ transgressions and experience love as I have never known before. Amen.

Bob Johnson

(Submitted in 2010)

